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Editorial

The people's struggle against Arroyo in the 2010 elections

The coming 2010 polls will be held amid the people's surging anger at the Arroyo regime. In the face of the regime's unbridled corruption, brutality and mendacity, the people are very much determined to oust it and hold it accountable—whether through their votes or their direct action. Many view the coming elections as an opportunity to pass judgment on, and repudiate, Gloria Arroyo and her minions, consign them to the dustbin of history and punish them for their crimes against the people.

But as in the past, the scheduled polls in 2010 will only demonstrate the overriding rottenness of the ruling political system and serve as a means to perpetuate the oppressive and exploitative system. The reactionary classes' filthy politics will continue to hold sway, with victory at the polls determined by the use of money, deception, feudal influence, violence, dirty maneuvers and fraud.

The ruling Arroyo regime has intensified the level of corruption of the ruling political system and reactionary elections severalfold. In a desperate bid to maintain itself in power, it is utilizing all the resources of the state and resorting to the dirtiest methods to position its minion in Malacañang and enable the Arroyo clique to continue raiding the na-



tion's coffers and avoid paying for its crimes.

Arroyo hopes that as soon as her factotum takes power, he will push through with charter change to effect a shift towards a parliamentary form of government. The shift will pave the way for Arroyo's assumption to power as prime minister. Should this scheme fail, Arroyo's backup plan is to impose a form of martial rule. For this reason, she continues to consolidate her forces within the military and police and create scenarios to support this scheme.

The Arroyo clique has been exploiting and exacerbating the divisiveness of the political opposition in order to gain the upper hand in the elections despite the ruling regime's severe isolation from the people. The political opposition has so far failed to unite under a single anti-Arroyo banner, indicating that the ruling classes are deeply divided into several factions based on each faction's economic and political interests.

On the other hand, there is a growing movement

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to utilize the 2010 elections as an additional arena of struggle for the ouster of the much-despised Arroyo regime and the advance of the people's democratic and patriotic agenda. The people behind this movement would like to eradicate the corrupt politics of traditional politicians. They are advancing a new politics—the politics of the people—wherein elections serve as an arena to advance the people's national and democratic interests and victory is measured in terms of one's patriotism and propeople stance.

In particular, they want to use the scheduled polls as an arena to fight the corruption of the ruling Arroyo clique, the charter change scheme, suppression and the trampling of human rights, US intervention, the permanent presence of American troops in the country and the backward and antipeople economic policies.

The progressive forces' reach and strength put them in a position to significantly influence the coming elections. They are a potential force that can spearhead the building of a broad united front of all anti-Arroyo forces. They can harness the strength of

various sectors, the patriotic, progressive and democratic forces and political oppositionists to collectively face the 2010 polls head-on, resist and frustrate the fraud and all other schemes hatched by Gloria Arroyo to extend her rule, accelerate the overthrow of her regime and make sure that Arroyo is made accountable for all her crimes against the people.

It is of utmost importance for the people to thoroughly advance their new politics and use it as an instrument to significantly push for the people's basic interests.

Nonetheless, the progressive forces are very much aware of the character of reactionary elections as an instrument of the ruling system. They will go full throttle in participating in the coming polls to use it in the struggle to oust Arroyo and attain the biggest possible gains from this arena. But they continue to set their eyes on the longterm revolutionary goal of putting an end to the ruling system and advocating a new system founded on genuine democracy and people's power. AB

Conduits of ill-gotten wealth


The Arroyos' extensive use of bogus non-governmental organizations (NGOs) and foundations as conduits of their ill-gotten wealth has come to the fore anew.

Based on documents from the Securities and Exchange Commission (SEC), the Arroyo family and its close friends and business associates are incorporators of at least nine NGOs and foundations estab-

lished since Gloria Arroyo became senator. (*See table on page 3*)

According to the Philippine Center for Investigative Journalism (PCIJ), four of these—the Amigo Foundation, Kagabay ni Glo, CDI-Asia-Pacific and First Gentleman Foundation—were established when Arroyo became president.

Arroyo is listed as one of the incorporators of KGMA and CDI-Asia-Pacific. Jose Miguel "Mike" Arroyo, his brother Rep. Ignacio "Iggy" Arroyo (Negros Occidental), Gloria's cousin Alfredo Guico and very close family friends Edgardo Manda and Efren Genuino are the other known incorporators of KGMA. Manda is its treasurer. As a mark of their closeness to the Arroyos, Genuino is currently the chair of the Philippine Games and Amusement Corporation (PAGCOR) and Manda served at one time as the general manager of the Ninoy

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Aquino International Airport. He now manages the Laguna Lake Development Authority.

Also among the KGMA incorporators is Arroyo's eldest son Rep. Juan Miguel "Mikey" Arroyo (Pampanga) while Rep. Diosdado Ignacio "Dato" Arroyo (Camarines Sur) and his wife Maria Victoria are incorporators of the Amigo Foundation.

Scandals. This is not the first time that the Arroyos' fake NGOs and foundations have been embroiled in scandals. These past years, the PS-DFI, POPDI, AGS, Molugan Foundation, Inc. and the National Organization for Agricultural Enhancement and Productivity were implicated in what was dubbed the fertilizer fund scam. These bogus NGOs were reportedly the recipients of millions of pesos worth of fertilizer which was distributed under the Ginintuang Masaganang Ani project. There are reports that no less than P152.5 million of the entire fund of P758 million involved in the project ended up in the Arroyos' pockets through these foundations.

In 2003, the Lualhati Foundation was em-

The Arroyos' fake NGOs and foundations

- 1 Amigo Foundation
- 2 Kagabay ni Glo
- 3 Centrist Democrat International (CDI-Asia-Pacific)
- 4 First Gentleman Foundation
- 5 Kaibigan ni GMA Foundation Inc. (KGMA)
- 6 Philippine Social Development Foundation Inc. (PSDFI)
- 7 People's Organization for Progress and Development Inc. (POPDI)
- 8 Molugan Foundation Inc.
- 9 Assembly of Gracious Samaritans Foundation Inc. (AGS)
- 10 National Organization for Agricultural Enhancement and Productivity (NOAEP)
- 11 Lualhati (Glory) Foundation
- 12 Gloria's League of Women, Inc. (GLOW)
- 13 GMA 2010 Movement
- 14 Kasangga
- 15 Bigkis Pinoy
- 16 Ginintuan at Makabayang Alay Foundation (GMA Foundation)
- 17 Glory for the Streetchildren Foundation

broiled in controversy when Arroyo claimed that she gave a check worth P8 million from businessman Mark Jimenez to the foundation. But their storyline hit a snag when the foundation denied receiving the check.

Fake telephone numbers.

The Arroyos' NGOs and foundations became subject to question because they had fake telephone numbers and addresses.

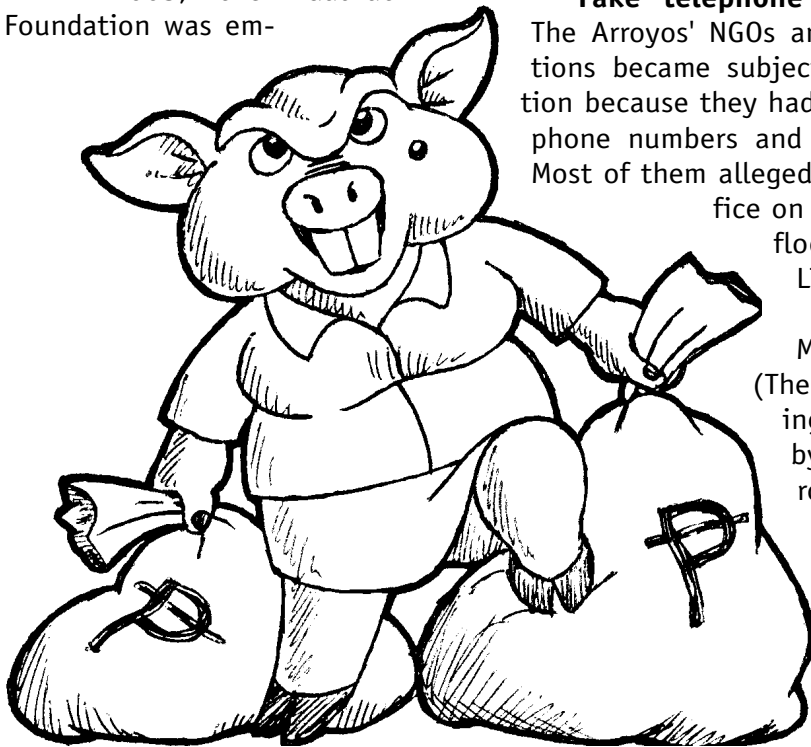
Most of them allegedly hold office on the eighth floor of the LTA Building in Makati City. (The LTA Building is owned by Mike Arroyo's family). The

telephone numbers provided, how-

ever, actually belonged to other offices. For example, GLOW's telephone number is actually that of a branch of Security Bank. Still another office answers when the telephone number of the GMA 2010 Movement is called. There was no answer from three other telephone numbers and their offices' corresponding addresses could not be found.

Lack of reports on programs and projects. NGOs and foundations are required to submit yearly financial reports to the SEC. They should also report the sources of their funds and how much their programs and projects cost. According to the PCIJ, the Arroyos' NGOs and foundations have failed to show where their funds come from. Neither do they have documents to show regarding their programs and projects.

These bogus NGOs are sure to play a major role as election time nears, because they will once again be used as conduits of funds for massive electoral fraud. AB



Twin fascists, twin puppets

The ruling party's choice of Defense Secretary Gilbert Teodoro and Interior Secretary Ronaldo Puno as its candidates for president and vice president in the 2010 elections speaks clearly of the priorities of the US-Arroyo regime, and that is to intensify the campaign of suppression against the people and employ every possible means, including the imposition of martial law, to ensure the prolongation of Gloria Arroyo's rule of corruption, violence and deceit.

Teodoro and Puno are twin fascists and twin puppets. These two Arroyo jackals have exhibited utter servility to US imperialism and are shameless advocates of its policy of fascist suppression against the organized resistance of the people.

As defense secretary, Teodoro has been consistently inciting the military to wage total war against the Moro people and the revolutionary forces. Like his benefactor Eduardo 'Danding' Cojuangco, he is a fascist pitbull that has no qualms about unleashing the full force of the state against the people.

Ronaldo Puno is the perfect

fascist partner of the relatively neophyte Teodoro. Serving under the Marcos dictatorship's interior department, Puno pushed for the formation of the Barangay Tanod and schemed to arm them and transform them into his version of Hitler's Brown-shirts who were used to suppress any resistance

to the Nazi fascist regime. Puno had already set up a number of secret training camps in Tagaytay and elsewhere for the Marcos army but was eventually overtaken by the 1986 EDSA uprising.

Since 2006, Puno has been advocating for the arming of barangay-based security forces in anticipation of the intensification of the people's resistance to the perpetuation of the Arroyo regime. Colluding with other top military officials, Puno is responsible for the fascist rampage of its army of

death squads that has liquidated close to a thousand peasants, workers, students, teachers, government employees, church people and other critics of the Arroyo regime.

With Teodoro and Puno, the possibility of resolving the socio-economic roots of the civil war through peaceful negotiations is nil. They are the very antithesis of peace negotiations.

The CPP noted that the selection of the ruling party's candidates comes right after Teodoro's meeting with US Defense Secretary Robert Gates and CIA Director Leon Panetta as well as right-wing imperialist policy makers including the Heritage Foundation. In those meetings, Teodoro presented himself as a worthy bootlicker of the US imperialists, praising the US military for its intervention in the Philippines, advocating for the continuation of the Visiting Forces Agreement and all other unequal



Land reform, a challenge to Noynoy Aquino

The people are presently challenging Benigno "Noynoy" Aquino III to implement agrarian reform in the face of his declaration of candidacy for president of the Philippines in 2010, because this is among the tasks that his mother former Pres. Corazon Aquino failed to fulfill.

One particular agrarian reform challenge for Noynoy Aquino is to distribute Hacienda Luisita's lands to the peasants who have long tilled it and are the true owners. According to Kilusang Magbubukid ng Pilipinas secretary general Danilo Ramos, "Hacienda Luisita... is public property and should be under agrarian reform. Its legitimate owners are the agricultural workers."

Aside from the issue of agrarian reform, another huge challenge presented by the people to Noynoy Aquino is for him to put a stop to human rights violations. According to Pagbabago! People's Movement for Change, "Everyone is waiting for his platform for genuine change."

AB

treaties with the US and reaffirming support to the US global campaign of terror.

Teodoro has assured the US that he is supportive of the perpetual presence of the US military in the Philippines, a throwback to the colonial days of US military bases.

By selecting Teodoro and Puno, Gloria Arroyo is taking the calculated move that if she could not push the "charter change" scheme before the elections, a government under her lieutenant Teodoro will. Teodoro has already declared that among his first priorities will be to push for "chacha," apparently assuring Arroyo that once she succeeds in winning a parliamentary seat in Pampanga, she will be a shoo-in for the prime ministership.

As candidates of the ruling regime, they will surely benefit from the machinery of fraud which helped Arroyo control the results of the 2004 elections. But the Filipino people are sure to roundly reject them, as they correctly believe that they will serve only to perpetuate the corrupt and rotten rule of the isolated Arroyo regime.

(Excerpted from the CPP statement issued September 17, 2009)



Soldiers kill 2 hors de combat

Two hors de combat Red fighters were killed by soldiers of the US-Arroyo regime. A Lumad leader and a peasant activist were slain while a youth activist was abducted this first half of September.

September 9. Soldiers of the Philippine Army 42nd IB killed NPA Red fighters Jacob R. Bongcalmo (Ka Jay-ar) and Christian Renegade (Ka Ryan). The two were both hors de combat when they were arrested in an encounter between the NPA and the military in Sitio Sto. Domingo, Barangay Itangon, Bula, Camarines Sur. Under international rules of war, hors de combat have the right to receive medical attention. Custodial forces are prohibited from killing them. Ka Jay-ar had a bullet wound in his leg when he was captured, but he was handcuffed before being riddled with bullets. Ka Ryan was not wounded when he was taken.

September 7. Four suspected soldiers of the 17th IB abducted Anakbayan member Noriel Rodriguez in Sitio Sta. Isabel, Barangay Tapel, Gonzaga, Cagayan. Rodriguez, an active member of the National Capital Region chapter of Anakbayan was in Cagayan to assist the peasant organization Kagimungan. He is the fifteenth member of Anakbayan to be abducted or killed under the US-Arroyo regime.

September 5. Members of a military death squad shot and killed a peasant activist while on his way home in Sitio Cambabang,

Barangay Cogon, Basey, Samar. The victim, Romulo "Muloy" Mendoba, 43 years old, is a member of the Kapunungan han Basaynon nga Paraguma (KABAPA), a progressive peasant organization. Mendoba was with his wife when they were ambushed by two men riding a motorcycle.

One week before Mendoba was killed, he was summoned by the military and was accused of being involved in the successful NPA raid on a detachment of the Citizens' Armed Forces Geographical Unit in Barangay Cancaiyas, Basey. Residents of Basey said the military has long been harassing them. Soldiers often threatened them and even said "we're going to kill more" after Mendoba was slain.

September 2. Paramilitary men killed Datu Mampaagi Belayong in Barangay Kinamaybay, Esperanza, Agusan del Sur. Datu Belayong chaired Linundigan, a Higaonon organization opposed to the entry of large-scale mining and plantations in their ancestral land.

The victim's wife positively identified the assailants as Datu Manlapangan Bato and his companion, both members of Task Force Gantangan-Bagani Force, a paramilitary group formed by the Eastern Mindanao Command of the Armed Forces of the Philippines. According to Kusog sa Katawhang Lumad sa Mindanao (KALUMARAN), Datu Mampaagi is the fifth leader of an organization under KALUMARAN to be killed within the past six months. **AB**





Military forces kill priest

Suspected AFP soldiers ambushed and killed Fr. Cecilio Lucero, a Roman Catholic cleric and parish priest of Catubig, Northern Samar on September 6 in Sitio Fuente, Barangay Layuhan, San Jose, Northern Samar. Two of the priest's companions were also wounded when they were fired upon by five masked men in military uniform.

Fr. Lucero chaired the Social Action Center of the Diocese of Catarman, Northern Samar, led its Committee on Human Rights and Task Force Peace and Order and was also a member of the Promotion of Church People's Response.

NDF-Eastern Visayas spokesperson Fr. Santiago Salas said Gloria Arroyo herself incited the killing of Fr. Lucero. In front of high-ranking military officers and politicians who attended the inauguration of a bridge in Las Navas town on June 16, Arroyo tagged Fr. Lucero as a "communist priest".

The death of Fr. Lucero is a great loss to the church, defenders of human rights and the Samareño people.

NDFP condemns ambush on Ka Choy Pernia

The National Democratic Front of the Philippines (NDFP) in Bicol condemned the ambush of a convoy carrying Glicerio "Ka Choy" Pernia, detained Bicol revolutionary leader and NDFP consultant in the peace talks. The ambush took place on September 16 in Binogsacan, Guinobatan, Albay while the police were transporting Ka Choy to Legazpi City after a court hearing in Ligao City.

NDFP-Bicol spokesperson Ka Gregorio Bañares said the attempt on Ka Choy's life was carried out by the military. He said that the initial story issued by the military that the ambush was an attempt by the New People's Army (NPA) to rescue the detained leader is a mere fabrication.

From The Netherlands, NDFP chief negotiator Luis Jalandoni said the Armed Forces of the Philippines' (AFP) ambush claim is belied by the heavy military presence at the ambush site. He said that the area is full of camps and military and police units.

"This is another blatant violation of the Joint Agreement on Safety and Immunity Guarantees (JASIG)," said Jalandoni.

Jalandoni also assailed the AFP's malicious and baseless story that the ambush was an attempt by the NPA to punish Ka Choy for alleged cases against the revolutionary movement. Jalandoni said that in fact, Ka Choy is among the NDFP consultants whose release it has been demanding in accordance with the JASIG before the suspended peace talks could be resumed.

AB

AFP surveils National Artist

AN element of the Philippine Marines was caught in the act of spying on the house of Prof. Bienvenido Lumbera, National Artist for Literature, in Mapayapa Village, Diliman, Quezon City on September 17.

At around 6:00 a.m., Lumbera's household help alerted subdivision guards because they noticed three men taking pictures of the professor's house. The guards were able to capture one of the men who was identified as Cpl. Guerrero Hannival Mosura Mendido. His two other companions managed to escape.

Malacañang immediately washed its hands of the spying that transpired in spite of the Philippine Navy's admission that the captured soldier was a member of the Naval Intelligence Security Force in training and that the surveillance of the professor's house was part of his practicum. After apologizing to Lumbera, Lt. Col. Edgar Arevalo admitted that the military agents had a mission to monitor the professor's house because enemies of the state allegedly frequented it.

Progressive organizations staunchly denounced the surveillance on Lumbera. The Alliance of Concerned Teachers (ACT) party which Lumbera chairs said that it would hold the Arroyo government accountable for anything untoward that may happen to the activist professor.

Lumbera, 77, is a member of the National Council of Bagong Alyansang Makabayan, chairs the Concerned Artists of the Philippines and is the national chair of the newly established ACT Party. His house serves as the new party's headquarters.

Lumbera was imprisoned during martial law for leading the progressive Panitikan para sa Kaunlaran ng Sambayanan.

AB

4 soldiers killed in NPA ambush

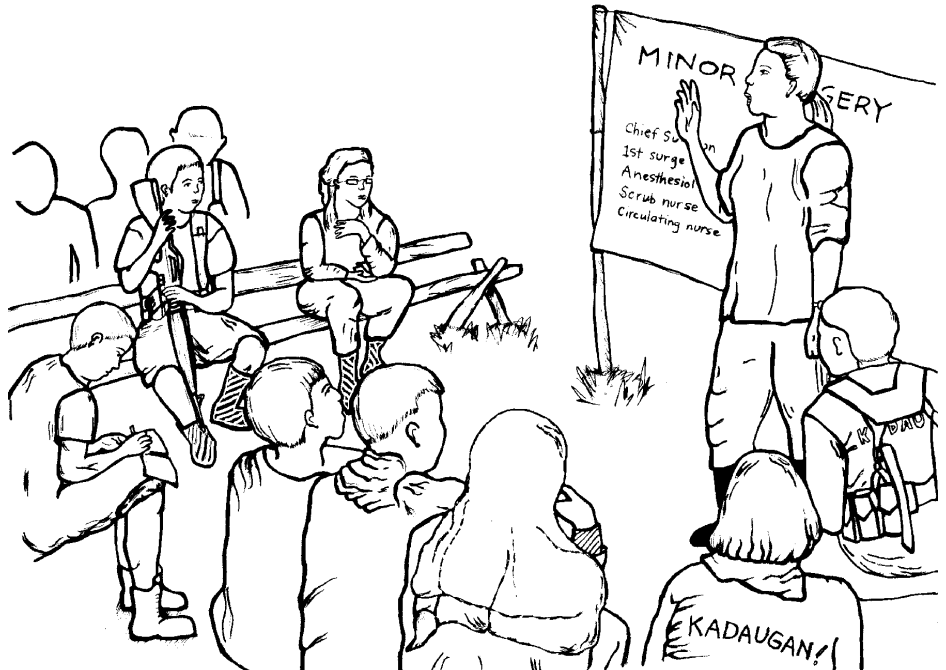
Four soldiers of the 69th IB were killed in an ambush by Red fighters of the New People's Army's (NPA) Front 54 in Sitio Malikongkong, Barangay Suawan, Marilog District, Davao City on September 8. Several other soldiers were wounded when the NPA set off a command-detonated explosive (CDX), said Ka Sandawa, spokesperson of NPA Front 54 Operations Command in the Southern Mindanao Region.

The ambush was the third in a series of tactical offensives against the newly deployed 69th IB. The second tactical offensive was staged on September 5 when Red fighters of the 1st Pulang Bagani Company (PBC-1) harassed a 69th IB detachment in Paquibato District. The first took place on August 30 when the PBC-1 ambushed the government soldiers in Calinan District, killing four and wounding six others.

To cover up their consecutive losses, 69th IB chief Lt. Col. Cesar de Mesa blamed the NPA for injuries sustained by Ronald Sayan, a motorcycle driver. De Mesa said Sayan's wounds resulted from the NPA's detonation of an explosive device. In fact, said Ka Sandawa, three minutes had already passed when Sayan passed by the ambush site. He was actually wounded when he was fired upon by military elements still shaken from the explosion.

Ka Sandawa maintained that NPA fighters always ensure the safety of civilians. **AB**

MILF members join NPA medical training



"We have heard a lot about the NPA (New People's Army) and its competence in various fields of work. It was, however, quite an experience when we got to actually interact with them." Thus said a Moro Islamic Liberation Front (MILF) cadre who was one of the first-ever group from the MILF to attend an NPA medical training course in the Southern Mindanao Region (SMR) in July.

The MILF participants said that they have long been in need of medical training especially amid the reactionary government's relentless war against them. They also aim to provide services to the Moro people who have long been deprived of basic health services. The participants were all fulltime fighters of the Bangsamoro Islamic Armed Forces, the MILF's military arm.

The training focused on combat surgery and orthopedic management. In the latter, three wounded comrades from the latest tactical offensive served as case studies. Also included were courses on abdominal surgery and physical and mental trauma management, with particular stress

on gunshot wounds.

The medics drew lessons from experiences with battlefield injuries, including cases of deaths due to infection and similar "simple" cases that could have been arrested had there been adequate knowledge on how to diagnose and treat them. The fundamental objective of the training was to save as many lives as possible. It also aimed to provide services to the masses and enable the NPA to cope with the rising level of guerrilla warfare.

The MILF forces thanked the NPA Red fighters for the care and hospitality extended them. To enable the MILF participants to focus on the training, the Red guerrillas took the initiative of

gathering and chopping firewood and fetching water for them. "Without your help, we would have had a hard time coping. So when you go to our area, we will also take good care of you," promised one participant.

For the Red fighters, it was likewise rewarding for them to interact with their Moro brothers. The NPA comrades learned a lot from the MILF's day to day conduct and how they fight the common enemy.

The two-week medical training was launched in a consolidated barrio in the Southern Mindanao region. Of the 30 graduates of the Basic Health Training, 25 were NPA medical officers, four were from the

MILF and one was a mass activist from the locality. The regional medical officer spearheaded the training. Aside from the 10 basic topics, two advanced courses were added to the training.

The training concluded with a program that was attended by the masses in the area and a company of NPA Red fighters. Three successive mass clinics were conducted after this, which provided free medical attention to 76 patients from neighboring barrios. These mass clinics also served as additional practicum for the new graduates. For their part, the MILF medical trainees also plan to launch mass clinics in Moro communities. **AB**

Lumad refuse to join paramilitary group

The Manobo have thwarted the Armed Forces of the Philippines (AFP) in its efforts to forcibly recruit them into Task Force Gantangan (TFG). The AFP has been attempting to form TFG in order to establish the Bagani Force, a paramilitary group composed of various Lumad tribespeople in Mindanao that will fight the New People's Army (NPA).

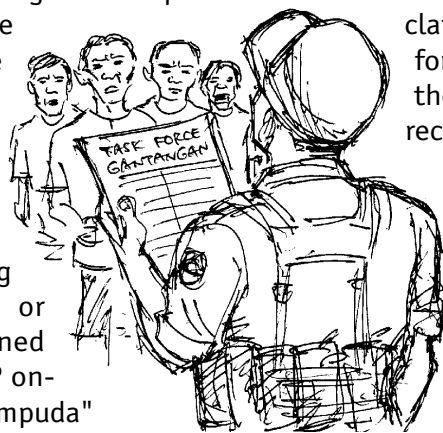
In one guerrilla front in North-eastern Mindanao, recruitment into TFG began in March 2008. The AFP called for a bogus "tampuda" among the Manobo. The "tampuda" is a traditional Manobo institution for resolving conflicts among warring clans or tribes. It turned out that the AFP only used the "tampuda" to promote TFG to the Manobo. The few who were hoodwinked into joining the paramilitary group eventually quit.

The military's promise of a P2,000 salary and a sack of rice every month for the recruits did not materialize. The AFP's alibi was that the mine that would be supplying their funds had not yet started operating. The AFP liars

even told the Lumad: "Seize firearms from the NPA if you want to have money."

Contrary to the AFP's claims that TFG was being formed simply to guard their communities, the recruits were in fact involved in actual military operations. Only during these occasions were they issued firearms. Their rifles would be taken away after the operations. The TFG recruits were demoralized.

They said, "The AFP is no different from the politicians. All they are good at is making promises that are later broken." Because they pinned their hopes on monthly salaries that they never received, their families went hungry. They weren't able to tend their farms and fish while they were with the TFG.



The Lumad realized soon enough that the TFG program was all a deception and a bane to their livelihood. Thus, the AFP succeeded in recruiting a mere 16 individuals from a family that had a notorious record in the barrio. They were known as hired killers and were particularly chosen by the AFP to sow fear among the people in the community.

The barangay where the TFG was formed became a virtual garrison. Despite numerous complaints from barangay officials against their presence, the reactionary government forces occupied and converted the barangay hall into a military detachment. The civilians, including women, were forced to guard them at night. Gambling, drinking and drug addiction resumed with a vengeance in the barrio.

Despite these military abuses, the Manobo never wavered in their militancy. Their council of leaders met to draw up programs of action to oppose Task Force Gantangan.

In one village, the barriofolk told the AFP to vacate their community in three days. Otherwise, they would launch an organized evacuation in protest. Knowing that they would be vulnerable to NPA attacks once the villagers leave, the cowardly soldiers raced

against the barriofolk in fleeing the village.

Three to five days later, the community was deserted and not a single person was left for recruitment. The Manobo folk succeeded in driving out the soldiers. Their organized evacuation from their communities frustrated the efforts of the AFP to forcibly recruit them into Task Force Gantangan. The protest action also dampened the reactionary army's illusion of forming a Mindanao-wide Bagani Force. Meanwhile,

those who initially joined the TFG and later quit began returning to their village.

The AFP's claim of growing recruitment into the TFG is a lie. In reality, the so-called new TFG members are really former elements of the CAFGU and the Lumadnong Pakigbisog sa Caraga-Bagani Tribal Forces (Lupaca-Bagani Warriors). Lupaca was also formed by the AFP as a paramilitary group and has long been disbanded. AB

Philippines is training base for mercenaries

Bayan Muna representatives recently called for an investigation of the operations of Satelles Solutions, a security company operating at the Subic Bay Freeport that is believed to be training mercenaries for the US.

Satelles Solutions is listed as a subsidiary of Greystone Ltd., one of the companies under the former Blackwater Worldwide. Blackwater was one of the biggest military contractors across the globe supplying the US with mercenaries who serve as augmentational forces in its wars of aggression

and intervention in various corners of the world. The SBMA has granted a conditional permit to Satelles in spite of a constitutional prohibition against the operation of foreign troops in the country. According to Sen. Rodolfo Biazon, Satelles officially uses two buildings on more than 18,000 square meters of land in the Subic forest reserve for its military training. Of the six listed incorporators of Satelles, Greystone infused the biggest capital while the five others (all Filipino) each invested only P1.00.

In 2006, Greystone Ltd. sought the permission of the US-Arroyo regime to install training facilities at the Subic Bay Freeport. But since the reactionary constitution prohibits foreign troops from operating in the country without a treaty, the regime was left with

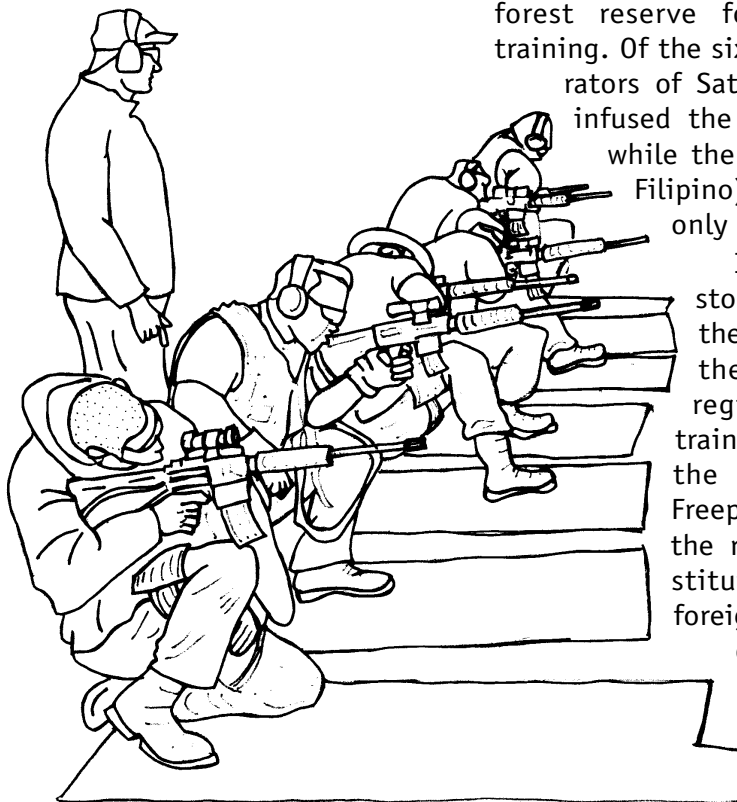
no other choice but to decline to openly endorse Greystone. Instead, it secretly granted permission to Satelles Solutions.

Greystone's Subic operations is presently one of its biggest worldwide. It trains up to 1,000 mercenaries from the Philippines, Nepal, India and Fiji. Filipinos in general receive lower wages from Greystone/Blackwater compared to their American recruits. Greystone has another training facility in Nairobi, Kenya.

It also has a secret facility in Guatemala that trains mercenaries from Guatemala, Honduras, El Salvador, Chile and Colombia. Aside from the mercenaries' role in the US interventionist wars against Iraq and Afghanistan, they are also involved in actions against anti-US regimes. One instance was their involvement in the ouster of Honduran president Manuel Zelaya in June this year.

Blackwater purposely established Greystone to conceal its involvement in numerous actions targeting the US' political enemies and supporting regimes in favor of its imperialist rule.

In 2009, Blackwater changed its name to Xe Services LLD after the company was embroiled in various scandals and anomalies pertaining to its violations of war protocols in Iraq and Afghanistan. Among its most notorious violations was the arbitrary and brutal killing by its mercenaries of 17 Iraqi civilians in 2007. AB



US troops open fire at Jolo mosque

U.S. troops and Philippine Marines indiscriminately fired at the Barter Trade Mosque near the port of Jolo, Sulu in the evening of September 14. The mosque had at least 12 bullets holes. A nearby building was also damaged.

The American and Filipino troops were reportedly unloading cargo from a boat when an explosion occurred nearby. Although they did not know what caused the explosion and no one among them was hurt, the soldiers arbitrarily fired at the mosque. The American soldiers opened fire for 20 minutes using a machine gun and other high-powered weapons.

The Bagong Alyansang Makabayan (BAYAN) strongly denounced the Presidential Visiting Forces Agreement Commission for readily absolving the American troops. The commission claimed that the US troops' actuations were a legitimate reaction to the explosion that occurred nearby. BAYAN countered that the commission was clearly covering up for the American soldiers because it considered only the statements given by elements of the Joint Special Operations Task Force-Philippines and ignored the testimonies of civilians who witnessed the incident.

Maoist guerrillas grow stronger in India

PRIME Minister Manmohan Singh of India outrightly admitted the growing strength of armed guerrillas and the revolutionary forces led by the Communist Party of India-Maoist (CPI-M). His admission was made in front of chiefs of police from various Indian states who were gathered for a meeting in New Delhi.

The Maoists in India enjoy popular support due to the agrarian revolution they have been waging in the last 20 years of struggle. As a result, Maoist guerrillas now operate in vast areas of Central India. The latest data reveal that they now operate in 182 districts, primarily in the states of Jharkhand, Bihar, Andra Pradesh, Chhattisgarh, Madhya Pradesh, Maharashtra and West Bengal.

The revolutionary forces have become dominant in certain parts of the country and have practically supplanted the local reactionary government. They are able to launch victorious tactical offensives against government forces.

The Indian leader openly admitted that the state failed in the last five years to prevent the advance of the armed revolutionary movement. He also admitted that the Maoists enjoy strong support from a big section of Indian society, including tribal communities, the poor, sections of the intelligentsia and the youth.

Cuban revolutionary commander passes away

VICE President Juan Almeida of Cuba succumbed to heart failure on September 11. He was 82 years old. He was a revolutionary commander who fought alongside Fidel Castro against the Batista dictatorship.

Almeida was a member of the Central Committee and the Political Bureau of the Cuban Communist Party and was one of the few living leaders of Cuba to carry the title "Commander of the Revolution." Tens of thousands of people attended his wake to pay their last respects to the great revolutionary leader.

The Cuban people greatly admire Almeida. He was with Fidel and Raul Castro in the 1953 attack on the barracks of the reactionary military in Moncada that signaled the start of the Cuban revolution. Almeida was also with the Castro brothers and Ernesto "Che" Guevara aboard the historic ship Granma that Cuban revolutionaries rode when they entered the Cuban capital of Havana and eventually toppled the US-supported president Fulgencio Batista. After winning the revolution and establishing the revolutionary government in 1959, he became a general in the Cuban Revolutionary Armed Forces.

As an African-Cuban, Almeida became the symbol of freedom for Cubans who were victims of racism and discrimination in the 1950s. He was also a writer and composer of over 300 songs.